

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, and 16-25 are pending in the present application.

For the reasons set forth in the Amendment and Request for Reconsideration filed November 19, 2003, and further clarified by the present amendments, the rejections of: (a) Claims 1, 2, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over EP 770686 and JP 61-10506; (b) Claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Chen et al and Rizzi et al; and (c) Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over EP 770686, JP 61-10506, Chen et al and Rizzi et al, are obviated by amendment. Acknowledgment to this effect is requested.

For the reasons set forth in the Amendment and Request for Reconsideration filed November 19, 2003, and further clarified by the present amendments, the rejections of Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, are obviated by amendment.

As amended on November 19, 2003, the claims no longer contain parenthetical phrases, thereby rendering moot the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Turning to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, Applicants have further amended Claims 1, 9, and 18, the specification, and the Abstract to correct an inadvertent error appearing in the same. Specifically, these sections have been amended to replace the improper expressions “R¹H” and “R²H” with the proper expressions “R¹SH” and “R²SH”, respectively. Claims 1, 9, and 18 have also been amended to remove superfluous language thereby improving the readability of these claims. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification as originally filed, for example at page 12, lines 2-17.

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Further to the Response filed on November 19, 2003 and in Response to Office Action dated May 20, 2003

In view of the amendments set forth herein, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance.
Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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